

II. Remarks

Claims 11-22 and 24-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-10 and 23 have been withdrawn from consideration, and are cancelled. With the remarks provided below, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of all rejections.

Election

Applicants affirm that an election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention Group II, claims 11-22 and 24-34 of the present invention. Accordingly, claim 1-10 and 23 have been cancelled as mentioned above.

Case Interview

The Applicants thank Examiners Ferguson and Hirshfeld for the case interview conducted on January 5, 2005. During the interview, the Applicants referred the Examiners to *Gosnell et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,589,289), specifically Column 8, lines 49-70 and column 4, lines 1-23. The Examiners agreed that *Gosnell et al.* does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination with any other cited reference, all of the elements recited in each of the independent claims 11 and 24. For example, the Examiners agreed that *Gosnell et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,589,289) does not render claim 11 obvious, since *Gosnell et al.* does not teach "an ink printed on the substrate" as recited in claim 11.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Responsive to the rejections of claims 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gosnell et al.*, *Gosnell et al.* does not teach or suggest all the elements recited in claim 11 as mentioned above. For example, claim 11 recites "an ink printed on the substrate" and *Gosnell et al.* simply does not teach an ink printed on the substrate, but rather the making of printing plates. See column 1, lines 7-10; See also column 8, lines 49-70 and column 4, lines 1-23.

Claims 12-16 generally depend from independent claim 11. Thus, claims 12-22 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

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Responsive to the rejections of claims 24-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), *Gosnell et al.* does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination of any cited reference, all of the elements recited in claim 24 as discussed in the interview. For example, claim 24 recites a step of "providing an ink" and comprising a thixotrope. The thixotropic network referred by the Examiner in *Gosnell et al.* is not part of an ink composition, but rather a "plastisol" (see col. 4, lines 18-22) that becomes a solid solution or fused (see col. 4, lines 30-39) as part of the composing member.

Claims 25-31 generally depend from independent claim 24. Thus, claims 25-34 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

Thus, claims 11-22 and 24-34 are in a condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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